

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 IO-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652:XGDS-2

TAGS: ENRG, EG, MNUC

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES

REF: CAIRO 7829

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN
REFTEL. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EGYPT HAS HAD A
MODEST NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

SOVIET-EGYPTIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE
PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONCLUDED IN JULY 1956,
LED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ESTABLISHMENT
(AEE) IN INSHASS. THE PRINCIPAL FACILITIES OF THE AEE
ARE A 2.5-3.0 MEV VAN DE GRAAFF ACCELERATOR AND A 2 MW
RESEARCH REACTOR SUPPLIED BY THE USSR. THE RESEARCH
REACTOR WENT CRITICAL ON JULY 27, 1961, AND THE
ACCELERATOR WENT INTO OPERATION THAT SAME YEAR.

2. A RADIOCHEMICAL LABORATORY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES WAS CONSTRUCTED AT INSHASS WITH
NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE. THIS LABORATORY PROVIDES ISOTOPES
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FOR THE RADIOISOTOPE CENTER IN CAIRO WHICH IS OPERATED

AS AN IAEA REGIONAL CENTER FOR TRAINING IN THE USE OF ISOTOPES IN AGRICULTURE AND MEDICINE.

3. EXPLORATION FOR URANIUM HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND AEE LABORATORIES HAVE CARRIED OUT

RESEARCH ON ORE PROCESSING AND URANIUM PURIFICATION. THE AEE ALSO UNDERTAKES FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH SUCH AS FUSION AND PLASMA RESEARCH PROJECTS.

4. CIA AT WORKING LEVEL ASSESSES THAT "ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGHER COUNCIL WILL NOT INCREASE EGYPT'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES IN THE SHORT TERM, BUT MIGHT PROVIDE THE COORDINATION FOR A SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM IN THE LONG RUN." ROBINSON

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